

Anything further on the bill, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Haberman would move to amend. Senator Haberman, do you... (Haberman amendment is found on page 1314 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Call of the house is raised.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, my concern was...in my original amendment was to change, and take out, on line 4, the cases will not be allowed to commence or continue, those that have been filed. However, after talking to Senator Chambers, I have offered a new amendment. It merely states that no cases, after January 9th, will continue. The reason for this is after January 29th...January 29th is when the bill was first read. At that time information has been that people have rushed in to file these suits and I just feel that we should have a cutoff date and January 9th would be acceptable to me instead of taking every case out that's been filed. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman has offered an amendment. Senator DeCamp, do you wish to speak? Senator Chambers. The motion before us is Senator Haberman's amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, there are various bills that Congress will enact, and they will make the effective date the date that the bill is first either filed or heard. And since this bill was first read on January 9th, that is the date being accepted as the effective or operative date of this bill. I'm going to tell you all, while I'm speaking on this amendment, some of the problems that are starting to surface. There are individuals with disputes against a spouse or former spouse. The threat of an alienation of affection suit has been found to be very effective as a tool of blackmail. If you do not do what I'm asking for, whether it is visitation rights, additional alimony, additional child support, then one of these suits is going to be filed. Whether or not it is won is not the point. It will provide the opportunity to bring all types of things out before the public to humiliate, embarrass, and in possible cases cause the loss of employment. And I don't think that the courts ought to be forums for this type of activity. That is why the causes of action themselves are so bad. I don't know if